Enfield Clean Energy Newsletter

Volume I, Issue 10 October 2012

The Committee

The Enfield Clean Energy Committee is a Town Committee made up of Enfield Residents interested in promoting Clean Renewable Energy.

The team members:
Jeff Myjak—Chair
Ray Gwozdz - V. Chair
Virginia Higley
Steve Moriarty
Greg Mark
Doug Lombardi

LIAISONS :

Town Council:
Tom Kienzler

Staff:
Joel Cox

Interested in joining our team? Send a note to CleanEnergy@Enfield.org and we will send you an application.

Points:

When we reach 200 points, we will be 1 step closer to getting a 2kw solar system.

Each Clean Option purchase is worth 1 point. Each Solar or Geothermal system is worth 3points.

Clean Option Points	172
System Points	87
Total Points	**259**

Enfield is Going Solar

Great news for Enfield !!! The Town Manager and Council have won a bid to have installed solar car ports at both the Police Station and Waste Treatment Plant.


Converting parking lots into solar power plants ...

The best part is these won't cost taxpayers a penny. Under the program, SunEdison will install and maintain the carports for 20 years. The town will purchase all the electricity the solar panels produce at about 50% off CL&P's rate.

The hope is to have these projects up and running in 2013. The Town Manager is looking at other projects like putting solar panels on the Town Hall Roof. They will look good and save the taxpayers money.

Communities collaborate on solar projects

Community solar projects, popping up across the USA, are being touted as a model that makes solar power both affordable and accessible to everyone. The projects allow everyone to get involved in producing solar power, "not just the ones with a really good south-facing roof," said Eric Jensen, chairman of the Minnesota Renewable Energy Society.

Clean Energy Collective of Carbondale, Colo., which is building the Wright-Hennepin project, has built or is building six others in Colorado and New Mexico and has six more in the works, said Tom Sweeney, chief operating officer.

"It's going to accelerate very quickly in the next few years," he said. A solar project built in 2008 in University Park, Md., was one of the first of its kind in the nation. A group of residents formed a limited liability company and raised $133,000 from investors, said President David Brosch.

The 99-panel solar array was built on the roof of a church, which purchases about 25% of the power it generates. The surplus electricity is sold back to the grid, Brosch said. "The panels have been running really well," he said. "We've actually generated more than we thought."

Two solar projects were built the past two years in rainy northern Washington state, one owned the Okanogan County Electric Co-op and another by 32 co-op members who invested a minimum of $5,000 each, said Nilsene Harris, a co-op staffer.
Community solar projects can be
See Community Solar—Pg2

CLEAN ENERGY OPTION FAQ'S

Q: Winter will soon be upon us. Can I still get a Home Energy Audit?

A. Yes. There is enough time to get an energy audit. For $75, a preapproved company will come out, change your incandescent bulbs, put in weather stripping and caulking and perform several other heat saving functions. Call 1-877-WISE-USE to schedule an audit today.

Q. When I enroll in the program, how much of the energy comes from outside the Northeast?

A. None. Because of the success of this Clean Energy Option program, they have reinvested it into the Northeast. Enough so, that now all of our needs are met here. But there is still more investment needed. We are still relying on coal and oil to supply some of our electricity. Those need to be replaced by local clean renewable sources.

Q: I have a question that may be of interest to your readers. Is there a place where I can send it?

Www.enfieldcleanenergy.net

Enfield Clean Energy

www.enfieldcleanenergy.net

Repower Connecticut

As the clock ticks down for Congress to extend critical tax credits for wind power, a new report shows that with continued state and federal leadership, Connecticut could soon realize the benefits of offshore wind.

Connecticut has immense untapped offshore wind energy resources, and the new report "The Turning Point for Atlantic Offshore Wind Energy: Time for Action to Create Jobs, Protect Wildlife, & Secure America's Energy Future", written by the National Wildlife Federation and released today by Environment Connecticut, identifies key building blocks that local, state, and federal officials have put in place to usher in a future with offshore wind. For example, on July 30, 2012 Governor Malloy joined the New England Governors in passing a resolution that commits to issuing a joint Request for Proposals for renewable power contracts in 2013.

"In the race up and down the Atlantic to have the first offshore wind project, we can't let Connecticut fall behind," said Johanna Neumann, Regional Director for Environment Connecticut. "Congress must extend the offshore wind tax credit before it expires at the end of the year so we can create good Connecticut jobs that produce pollution-free energy."

"Connecticut has an opportunity to take advantage of the huge clean energy source in nearby ocean waters, said Bill Moore, CEO of Deepwater Wind. " Offshore wind can not only power thousands of homes and businesses, but it can create new jobs by tapping into one of our great domestic sources of power."

According to a 2010 National Renewable Energy Laboratory assessment, Connecticut's offshore wind resource are 6.4 GW within 50 nautical miles of the coast, enough to satisfy 78% of Connecticut's electricity needs in 2010.

The Atlantic coast is an ideal location for offshore wind energy because of its high electricity demand and population density along the coast. Along the Atlantic coast alone, reaching the Department of Energy's (DOE) goal of 54 gigawatts of offshore wind power would reduce carbon pollution by the equivalent of taking roughly 18 million cars off the road. Meeting this benchmark would also generate $200 billion in new economic activity while creating more than 43,000 permanent, high-paying.

"Our state needs to invest in pollution-free offshore wind," said Roger Smith, New England Energy Program Director for Clean Water Action. "Smart investments in wind will help free our residents from electric rate hikes driven by rising fossil fuel prices."

The broad base of support for offshore wind was demonstrated in late July when more than two-hundred environmental organizations, businesses, and local and state officials from up and down the Atlantic coast wrote a letter to federal officials calling for bold action to accelerate the development of offshore wind.

For more information, check out http://www.environmentconnecticut.org/news/cte/connecticut-

Community Solar (continued from Pg 1)

built on a roof of a large building such as a school or in an open area. Wright-Hennepin's will be next to the utility's headquarters in Rockford, Minn.

The projects also can be built on land that is unsuited for other development, such as an old landfill, or next to a wetland because there's no environmental impact, Masia said.

The laws regulating local power generation vary from state to state. Colorado passed a law two years ago allowing community solar projects, which is why so many are being built there, Sweeney said.

So could this work in Enfield? Or anywhere else In Connecticut? It will be difficult for many reasons. The first is the distribution charge CL&P is still going to charge the close to 7 cents to bring the power from the solar farm to your home.

The next issue is the price. Can we find enough people who would be willing to buy a panel? Spend upwards of $500 to buy a share of a solar farm and get a savings off your electric bill of $2.75 a month. With that, it will take 15 years to break even.

This is one of the projects Enfield's Clean Energy Committee is looking at.

For more information, go to http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/story/2012/09/18/communities-collaborate-on-solar-projects/57804724/1 or email cleanenergy@enfield.org.